



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release:
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Implementation date for Pesticides General Permit has been extended

BATON ROUGE - On Jan.9, 2009, a federal court ruled in the case of National Cotton Council of America v. EPA that pesticide applications to or around water required a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. Based upon a request from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the court granted a two year stay of the mandate until April 9, 2011. In response to the ruling, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality prepared a general permit for pesticide applications to become effective on April 9.

On March 28, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit granted EPA's request for an extension of the deadline for when permits will be required for pesticide discharges into U.S. waters from April 9 to October 31, 2011.

Since Jan. 26, 2007, an LPDES permit was not required for pesticide applications to surface water. All discharges and usage in Louisiana only needed to be consistent with Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act requirements, located on the container and applicable Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Regulation governing pesticide usage. If necessitated by a court ruling, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will mandate the requirement for an LPDES permit.

Questions may be directed to Melvin C. Mitchell at (225) 219-3197 or Bruce Fielding at (225) 219-3231, DEQ Water Permits Division.

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